

# "The Best Partner for Glocalization"

**"Farewell to 2008 and welcome to 2009."**



We are saying goodbye to an eventful 2008 and welcome to a new year, 2009. The year 2008 was a meaningful one for our office in many ways. After being established in 1999, our official name was changed this year to KLAFIR, America.

Befitting this, we have strengthened international solidarity with local government organizations throughout America. We also expanded our work area from North America to Central America. In 2008, our office provided visa exchange and information support for 340 cases; discussed 123 cases of best practices; and provided support for delegation visits to America for 1,200 Korean civil servants. Doubling that of 2007, it was a year of rediscovering its role and position for KLAFIR, America.

We anticipate various environment changes in 2009. Some of these include the visa exchange between Korea and the United States; the expectation of an FTA conclusion; and efforts to develop the American market due to the economic recession. Following such changes, it is projected that there will be a surge in demand for international exchange between the governments of Korea and America. In accordance to this, KLAFIR, America plans to concentrate on providing support for the revitalization of international exchange between the governments of Korea and America; supporting delegation visits to America for civil servants; and supplying diverse cases of best practices and local information. In particular, we will focus on spreading Korea's excellent local government system as well as promoting its culture, tourism, student exchange, and the quality of their civil servants training programs. To this end, we will further strengthen relations with our cooperative partners.

My hope is that we will be able to step out from under the shade of unprecedented economic recession and that this year will become a new springboard and an opportunity to develop not only for our office but all local governments.

Sincerely,

**Director of KLAFIR, America**  
**Dong Hoon Park**

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KSD/CSS REGISTRATION UNIT



## Visits of Major Korean Figures to America in 2008



### 1. Ministry of Public Administration and Security (Sei-hoon Won)

**“International exchange between Korean and American civil servants needs strengthened…”**

On June 24th, Minister Sei-hoon Won of the Ministry of Public Administration and Security visited the KLA FIR, America office. After receiving a status report, he requested that KLA America play a central role due to the growing demand for international exchange and to on providing support for actual exchange. Especially, with over a thousand civil servants from Korean local governments making delegation visits to America, he asked KLA FIR, America to continue making strong efforts to keep the quality of the visits high. Minister Won was in New York City from June 23–25 for the UN Keynote Address.



### 2. Representatives of the '4 Local Government Associations'



#### Strengthening Relations with the American Local Government

Representing 246 association heads and assemblies, the '4 Local Government Associations' are the Governor's Association of Korea, the National Association of Mayors, the Association of Metropolitan and Provincial Council Chairs, and the National Association of Chairmen. From May 3rd, a group of representatives (12) of these 4 government associations visited the KLA FIR, America office. Among their activities was a courtesy call to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; a meeting with the conference president of the US Conference

of Mayors (USCM); and a visit to Nassau County. In particular, they visited the KLA FIR, America office on May 3rd where they were informed of the American local government's status and given a status report of KLA FIR, America's goals and operations. The group expressed gratitude and compliments in regards to KLA FIR, America's work.



### 3. KLA FIR President Lee Sang-ho Visits KLA FIR, America Office



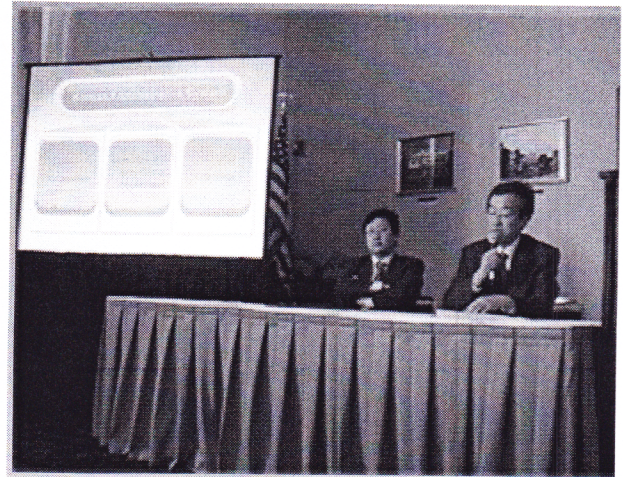
KLA FIR President Lee Sang-ho visited the KLA FIR, America office on February 21st and asked KLA FIR, America to play a firm role



position as the center of local government diplomacy in the American region. President Lee visited the American East coast in rebuilding up an American network. He participated in a variety of local activities including meetings with Korean leaders of local cooperative networks and visiting the Philip Jaisohn Memorial House.



#### 4. "Korea Session" Held at the 94th Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association

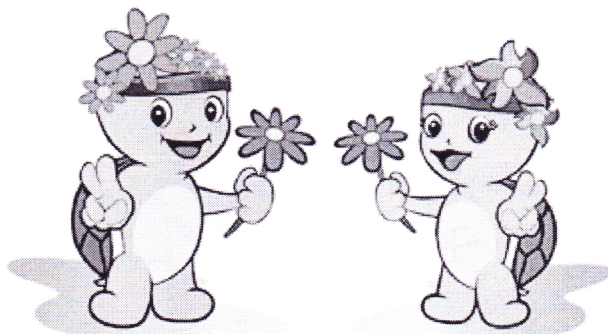


The 94th Annual Conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) was held from September 19–23 in Richmond, Virginia. With over 100 local government personnel attending, a Korea Session was held. Introducing the work of KLA FIR, its goal is to further revitalize international exchange between the local governments of Korea and America. KLA FIR advisor Kim Sung-ho participated as the keynoter for this session. He introduced the major activities of KLA FIR, which was followed by a lively Q&A session amid great interest from the participants.

## Major International Events in Korea in 2009



### 1. Korea Floritopia 2009

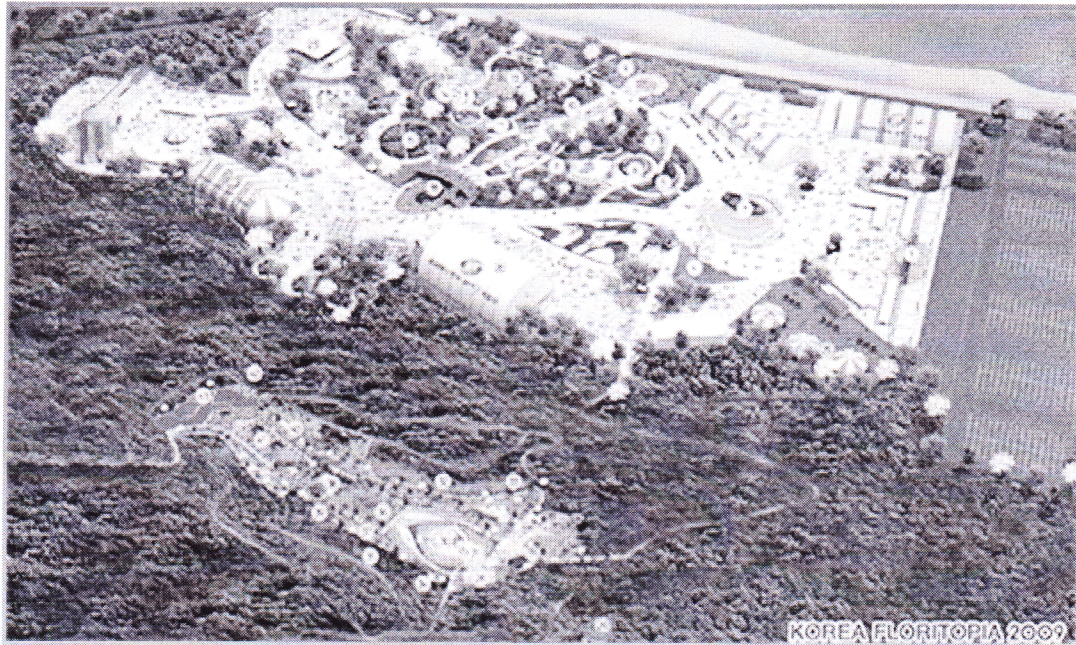


Korea Floritopia 2009 will be held for 7 days from April 24 – May 20, 2009. The event will be held in the area surrounding Kkothe Arboretum in Seungeun-ri, Anmyeon-eup, Taean-gun, Chungcheongnam-do Province. The theme is "Flower, Culture, & Dream," with a sub-theme of "A world that becomes affluent through flowers."



flowers.” A variety of events scheduled including a day for international organizations to promote overseas sister relationships and amicable cooperation. There will also be a Flower Loving Quiz Competition, flower body painting, flower folk games, a talk show with flowers as its theme and performances. 113 domestic and international local government groups and organizations to participate in this event. 1.1 million visitors are anticipated.

Website: <http://www.floritopia.or.kr/html/en/>



## 2. Global Fair & Festival 2009 Incheon Korea



Global Fair & Festival 2009 Incheon Korea will be held for 80 days from August 7 – October



2009. It will be held at Songdo International City (Central Park, Tomorrow City, S Convensia) as well as various venues throughout Incheon Metropolitan City. Its goal is to create wide awareness of Incheon throughout the world and its slogan is "Lightening Tomorrow Incheon is Korea's representative free economic zone as well as Korea's gateway. This is a chance to examine Incheon's role and performance results as a growth power for bringing Korea into an advanced, leading country. Anticipated events include the presentation of a development model that will strengthen the country's competitive power as well as an opportunity for the reinvigoration of attracting international investments. Also, there will be a visionary presentation of an eco-friendly future city with its alternatives to the environmental problems that arise in a metropolis.

Website: <http://english.incheonfair.org/index.asp>



### 3. The 60th International Astronautical Congress 2009 Daejeon Korea (IAC 2009 Daejeon)

With its theme of "Space for Sustainable Peace and Progress," this event will discuss methods for the peaceful utilization and application of space technology. Its goal is to introduce the city of Daejeon, where science and culture are joined together. It will be held from October 12–16, 2009 at the Daejeon Convention Center, the Daejeon Culture & Arts Center, EXPO Science Park, and the area of Gapcheon. Aside from the Congress, there are various other events being prepared including exhibitions, cultural events, and a space festival.



Website: <http://www.iac2009.kr/>



### 4. The 3rd Jeju International Delphic Games





## The 3rd Jeju International Delphic Games

For 7 days from September 9-15, 2009, the 3rd Jeju International Delphic Games will be held at the Halla Dome, Jeju Stone Park, the Culture and Art Center and other areas on Jeju Island. The concept of these games is the Tamla culture and its goal is to erect the concept of Delphic Games. This event hopes for cultural artists from around the world to transcend systems, ideologies, religions, etc. and garner the best results possible through these cultural art games. The competition will be held in 6 categories with a total of 21 disciplines. Aside from the competition, there will also be a general assembly and academic rally; a performance by a prestigious opera singer; a performance of the Jeju gut; performances of international traditional culture and art; a cyber festival; a food culture festival; the designation of the Delphic song; and a global costumes exhibition. Founded in 1994, the International Delphic Council (IDC) organizes the Delphic Games with the aim of providing a unique forum for arts and cultures around the world.

Website: [http://www.delphic2009.jeju.kr/language/index\\_eng.html](http://www.delphic2009.jeju.kr/language/index_eng.html)

## Main News of International Exchange between Local Governments in 2009



### 1. Geumcheon Gu and Bergen County Sign Youth Exchange Agreement



The Seoul Metropolitan Government Geumcheon Gu (Mayor Han Il) and Bergen County, New Jersey signed an agreement on August 2, 2009 to pursue in conjunction an educational program for civil servants and students to be commenced the following year. In accordance to the agreement, 2~3 civil servants of the Geumcheon Gu will participate in a year-long education and exchange program at Bergen County. 20~25 excellent students will be selected to participate in a 3-month program at Bergen Academy (high school). Likewise, students of Bergen Academy will stay at the dormitories of Seoul Traditional Arts High School and experience the diverse culture of Korea.





## 2. Homestay Exchange Group From North Little Rock, Arkansas, USA Visit Uiwang City

The homestay exchange group of North Little Rock, Arkansas, USA visited their sister Uiwang City for 11 days beginning May 22nd. During their visit, the group stayed with or families residing in the city. They toured historic cultural sites and major organization facilities of the city. It was a special visit for they were able to experience Korean family life and social customs. Especially, Uiwang City prepared a colorful program for these Americans who were interested in Korea's traditional culture. Instead of the normal tourist activities, they were able to really experience Korea and Uiwang City by cooking Korean food and through traditional cultural experiences, etc.



## 3. Gapyeong County Youth Group Visit Brampton, Ontario, Canada

The Gapyeong County Youth Group visited Brampton, Ontario, Canada for 20 days from January 3-22. They toured City Hall and other public facilities; participated in the ESL program and visited local high schools and traveled freely around Ontario. They introduced Korean culture to Canadian youth while experiencing Canadian youth culture. As they came to understand each other's different cultures, friendship grew between the youth. This played a major role in increasing amicable cooperation between the two cities.



## 4. Suseong District, Daegu and Rome City, Indiana, USA Sign Amicable Exchange Agreement

Suseong District, Daegu and Rome City, Indiana, USA signed an amicable exchange agreement on November 24th. Henceforth, they will strengthen their collaboration for growth in various fields like art, education, economic, etc. This will include college study programs abroad; youth exchange and homestay programs; and the mutual exchange of culture and art.



## 5. Seocho City Office and Bergen County Sign Amicable Exchange Agreement

On February 28th, Seocho City and Bergen County signed an amicable exchange agreement. Henceforth, they plan to strengthen their collaboration in various areas such as the study exchange and homestay programs and the mutual exchange of culture and art.



## 6. Bucheon City Appointed to the Board of Directors of Sister Cities International (SCI), USA



On September 23rd, Bucheon City announced that they had been elected to the Board Directors of Sister Cities International (SCI). SCI overseas the exchange and support between sister cities of America and the entire world. Bucheon City stated that along with SCI, they will further expand exchange with American sister cities in the future.



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